

The War Services Department will also undertake the important task of co-ordinating the existing Public Information Services of the government. The Minister will be empowered as well to originate or employ such further means of informing the public as may, from time to time, be required in order to obtain, in the furtherance of the National war effort, the utmost aid from the people of Canada.

The importance of this task can hardly be over-emphasized. Perhaps the greatest single moral advantage which democracies enjoy over dictatorships in time of war, as in time of peace, is their reliance upon the spontaneous support of an informed public. Military necessity dictates certain limits upon information, and the substitution of a large measure of compulsion for freedom of action. It does not, however, demand a total black-out of accurate information, or total compulsion. These are the very things we are struggling against. The struggle will be successful on the home front only insofar as accurate information is supplied as freely as military circumstances permit. In no better way can the spontaneous desire of the great majority of our people to give their services freely be effectively harnessed to the pressing needs of this time of war.